

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5850
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 2191

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, YO
SUBJECT: DJERDAP II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

1. FOLLOWING PRESS REPORT THAT PROTOCOL WILL BE SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF HYDROPOWER EQUIPMENT FOR DJERDAP II, DURING VISIT OF SERBIAN DELEGATION TO MOSCOW, EMBASSY CONTACTED INVEST-IMPORT, FOREIGN TRADE FIRM MANAGING PROJECT, FOR MORE DETAILS. INVEST-IMPORT REPRESENTATIVE PLAYED DOWN PROTOCOL AND MAINTAINED THAT IT WILL BE ONLY A RESTATEMENT OF INTEREST IN INVOLVING THE SOVIETS IN THE PROJECT. HE SAID THAT THE DECISION ON EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AND THAT THE OFFER OF THE U.S. CONSORTIUM IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS WHICH WILL DETERMINE SUPPLIERS IS WHETHER THEY CAN MANUFACTURE AND DELIVER ALL EIGHT HYDROPOWER GENERATORS IN TIME TO KEEP CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE. THIS IS REPORTED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO AWARDED THE CONTRACT TO SOVIET ENTERPRISES AS THEY HAVE A POOR TRACK RECORD ON DELIVERIES.

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2. FYI. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT INVEST-IMPORT'S LOW ASSESSMENT OF PROTOCOL'S SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE HOW SERBIAN AUTHORITIES COULD SIGN A STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND THEN TURN AROUND SEVERAL WEEKS LATER AND AWARD CONTRACT TO U.S. FIRMS. END F.Y.I.

3. EMBASSY WILL BE INQUIRING WITH OTHER SOURCES ON
IMPLICATIONS OF PROTOCOL AND KEEP USDOC AND
DEPARTMENT INFORMED.
WORTZEL

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